



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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Medical Director

July 19, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A SOLE
SOURCE AGREEMENT WITH JWCH INSTITUTE, INC.**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source agreement, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source agreement. It is the Department of Mental Health's (DMH's) intent to enter into Sole Source agreement negotiations with John Wesley Comprehensive Health Institute, Inc., (JWCH) to be co-located at Rio Hondo Community Mental Health Center (Rio Hondo CMHC) and the American Indian Counseling Center (AICC), located together at 17717 Studebaker Road, Cerritos, CA 90703. The proposed program would serve consumers in Service Area (SA) 7, Supervisory District (SD) 4.

The goal for this pilot project is to become a model program for the County, utilizing the expertise and demonstrated success of JWCH, for the ultimate benefit of improving quality of care and treatment outcomes for our consumers.

As healthcare reform approaches, we are challenged to find new, more effective, and efficient ways to provide quality services to our consumers. This pilot co-location project of JWCH, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), on the site of Rio Hondo CMHC, a clinic operated by the DMH, will allow DMH and JWCH to provide integrated healthcare within a Behavioral Health Home model demonstrating measurable evidence of increased health care access, collaboration between medical providers, and also to decrease medical errors due to lack of information of co-occurring disorders, including mental health, health, and/or substance use, and ultimately improve the quality of care provided to our mental health clients.

JWCH will operate an on-site satellite health clinic, offering basic healthcare services to these clients. The physical health services provided by JWCH will be targeted primarily to Adult, Older Adult, and/or Transitional Age Youth clients who have an established relationship with the mental health clinic and who may not have a physical healthcare provider, or who may have barriers to accessing physical health care in the community.

JWCH offers an advantage over other providers because they have a wide range of experience working in an urban environment within an integrated care model, servicing severely mentally ill and homeless populations. In 2008, JWCH and a collaborative of social service providers joined the County in an integrated effort to assist the homeless mentally ill in Skid Row through a pilot effort known as "Project 50" that proved highly successful. Subsequently, as part of The Center for Community Health collaborative with DMH's Downtown Mental Health Clinic, JWCH delivered an integrated model of care to mentally ill persons with co-occurring and substance abuse issues. JWCH's previous experience of mutual co-location with DMH as an FQHC, along with their recent direct experience as a DMH funded program, gives them a unique advantage over other providers, thereby, avoiding the potential pitfalls of integrated care. The development of policies and procedures to share information between systems of care on-site, shared treatment plans with DMH co-located staff, and joint Medi-Cal certification for Health and Mental Health services at the same site are a few of the challenges that JWCH has previously tackled successfully. This experience significantly diminishes the learning curve for JWCH, saving administrative costs for DMH as well as the Provider.

There is no monetary payment between DMH and JWCH. The Department's centralized accounts will be utilized to provide alterations and improvements to Rio Hondo/AICC CMHC for implementation of this collaboration.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office, DMH will proceed with negotiations for the sole source agreement within two weeks. DMH will work closely with both County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing the agreement with JWCH.

MJS:RK:CW:AS:yl

c: Health Deputies
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Cathy Warner, L.C.S.W.
Ana Suarez, L.C.S.W.
Contracts Development and Administration